



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Thursday, August 21, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety announces 24 law enforcement partners for the Violent Criminal Apprehension Team (VCAT) *Team to focus on apprehending Arizona's most violent fugitives*

On August 21, 2008, Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Director Roger Vanderpool announced the statewide formation of the Violent Criminal Apprehension Team (VCAT) at a 10 a.m. press conference at DPS IIMPACT Headquarters in Phoenix.

On May 12, 2008, Governor Janet Napolitano directed DPS to develop a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional statewide plan to identify and arrest individuals with outstanding felony warrants. In response, DPS has created VCAT – the Violent Criminal Apprehension Team. After VCAT was formed on May 23, 2008, two DPS squads serving and coordinating arrest warrants on a weekly basis have made **215 felony fugitive arrests and 19 sex offender's warrant arrests totaling 234 felony fugitives arrested.**

A website has been set up for the public to help VCAT track down and arrest violent fugitives. The public is highly encouraged to visit the website at: www.azdps.gov/wanted

In addition, a 24-hour VCAT telephone tip line is also in operation. If the public has any information on the whereabouts of known felony fugitives in Arizona, they are encouraged to call the tip line at: 1-888-768-4481 or 1-888-SOUGHT1.

Also speaking at the Violent Criminal Apprehension Team rollout news conference at DPS IIMPACT Headquarters, located at 2222 W. Encanto Blvd in Phoenix, were the leaders of three of the team's 24 partners:

Chief Daniel Hughes/Surprise Police Department
Director Barbara Broderick/Adult Probation and Parole Division of Maricopa County
Chief Anthony Melendez/Wickenburg Police Department

DPS Criminal Investigations Division Chief David Denlinger described how VCAT works at the press conference as it shares resources and intelligence in tracking down the state's most violent fugitives.

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